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Wildrose says officials *did* know of clause

CARBON LEVY

Opposition questions NDP's ignorance of key energy stipulation



Jeremy Simes
For Metro | Calgary

Evidence suggests the NDP government may have known about the "Enron clause" prior to March 2016, which is when Deputy Premier Sarah Hoffman claims the government learned of the regulation.

On Tuesday, Hoffman admitted the government wasn't aware of the clause — which lets power companies offload money-losing contracts if government actions make them unprofitable — when increasing the carbon levy for emitters.

The clause has been on the Queen's Printer since it was legislated by the for-

mer PC government in 2001.

Premier Rachel Notley referenced it in early March and, according to Wildrose electricity and renewables critic Don MacIntyre, a September briefing note indicates Balancing Pool officials must have known about the clause when reviewing levy hikes on power purchasing agreements (PPAs).

"We have to take their word the minister didn't know," he said. "But of course department officials knew; they've been on these files since day one. I find it odd they didn't tell the minister until March."

The government couldn't confirm or deny Energy Department officials knew about the clause prior to informing the government about them in March.

Hoffman suggested the NDP would've remained firm on the levy increases as the note said officials believe levy increases to PPAs wouldn't cause them to terminate.

However, Enmax, TransCanada, AltaGas and Capital Power have announced they plan to terminate their PPAs largely over the increase to the carbon levy.

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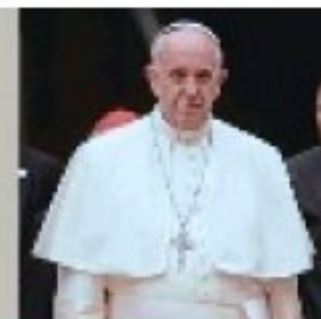
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Is Edmonton's water vulnerable?

ENVIRONMENT

Expert says city should consider its options



Samantha Power
For Metro | Edmonton

Husky Energy's oil spill in the North Saskatchewan River should make Edmonton reconsider how vulnerable it is to water tragedies, one expert says.

Alberta's Bob Sandford, who works with the United Nations and other groups on water issues, says Edmonton's water — which also comes from the North Saskatchewan — is vulnerable because the oil and gas infrastructure in Western Canada is aging.

Sandford says Edmonton

should consider the effects that leakages from this infrastructure have on the cost to treatment facilities and aquatic ecosystems.

"It's important to realize how vulnerable Edmonton is," Sandford said, noting the city's water treatment system is one of the best.

Currently 200,000 litres of oil is making its way down the North Saskatchewan after a leak in a Husky Energy pipeline.

The city of Prince Albert has enacted a two-month contingency plan to truck in water from the South Saskatchewan River.

Sandford says oil spills interrupt natural biological processes that treat water and irreparably harm aquatic ecosystems, making water treatment more expensive.

"We don't know the tipping points on aquatic ecosystems," he said. "The cumulative effects make systems more vul-

nerable."

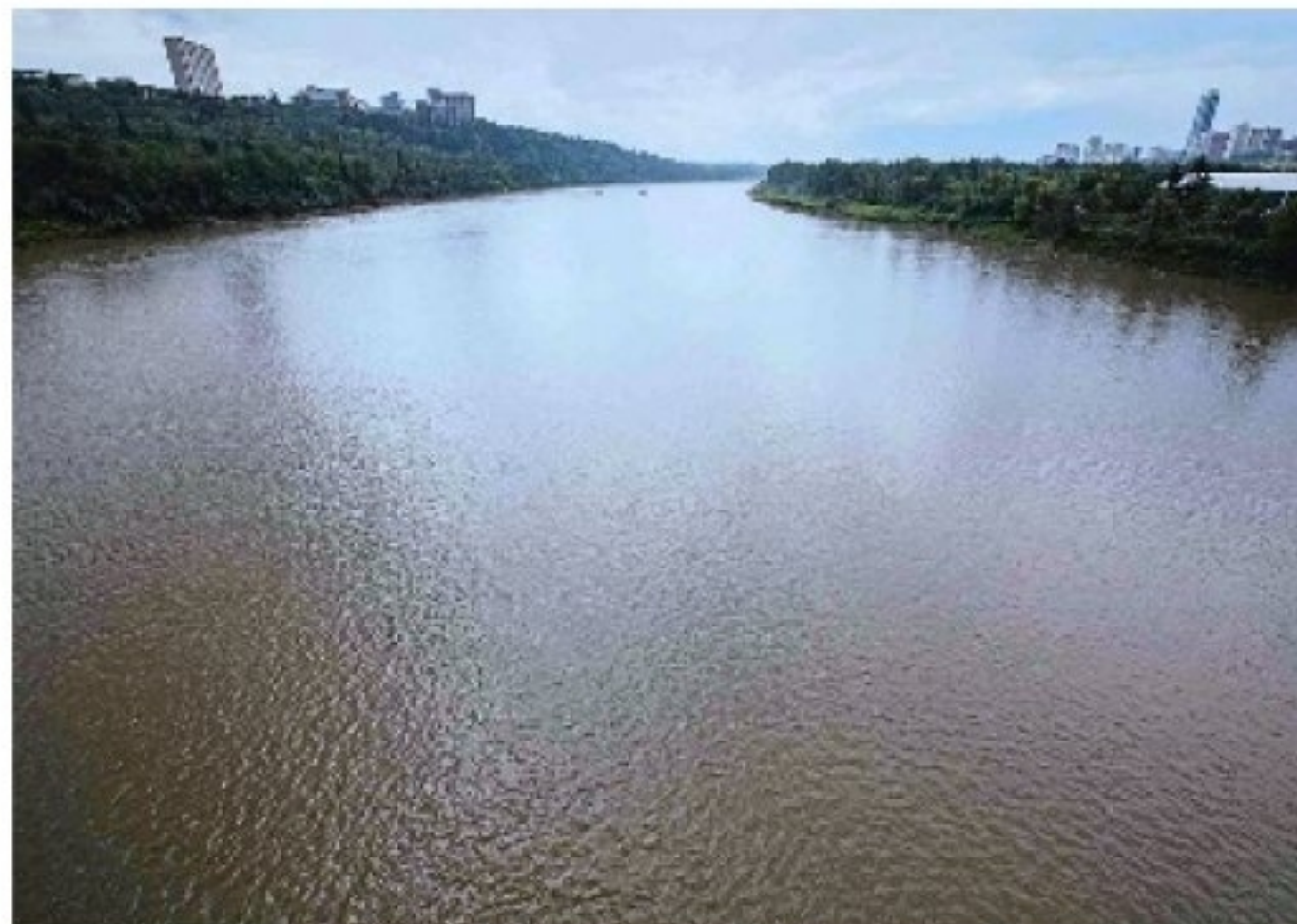
In Edmonton, EPCOR, which oversees water, says it has measures in place to protect the city's water-treatment facility from a spill.

But EPCOR also says communication with industrial partners is key to ensure treatment plants are ready in an emergency.

According to an incident report on the spill, Husky discovered a pipeline leak 14 hours before notifying the provincial government.

"If the spill is upstream we rely on stakeholders' communication, and need notification as soon as possible," said Craig Bonneville, director of water treatment for EPCOR in Edmonton.

Bonneville added Edmonton's surplus water supply could be between two and four days in a similar state of emergency, depending on the situation, water rationing and type of spill.



One water expert says the recent **Husky Energy oil spill** in the North Saskatchewan should have Edmonton taking notice. KEVIN TUONG/FOR METRO

FESTIVAL

K-Days changes concert space



Kevin Maimann
Metro | Edmonton

K-Days has made minor adjustments after underage music fans complained they were fenced out of view from their favourite bands.

A Northlands spokesperson said the South Stage, which has

featured headliners like X Ambassadors and Matthew Good, was set up with adults in mind and minors were fenced off to the side because alcohol is served in the general area.

At the North Stage, which hosts younger acts like Francesco Yates, it's the opposite — those wishing to drink are cast aside.

"The South Stage is geared more to the 18 and over, just by

the nature of the acts that are playing there," said Lori Cote, with Northlands.

"Of course we know some of the younger demographic would like to see those, so we made an area that's safe for them to come and see those concerts as well."

The space was less than desirable for young fans, who expressed their disappointment on social media with pictures

that showed the stage barely within view.

"Segregating minors from a concert venue is not cool its (sic) ridiculous and I wasted so much money," @FeimoonChoy posted on Twitter. User @TheToxicZombie chimed in that minors "must first pass through the shame tunnel for a small and unfairly far viewing area."

On Tuesday, Northlands moved the fence line closer, added bleachers and took skimming off the side of the fence so underage fans can sit in the grass and



K-Days runs through this weekend at Northlands. MACK MALE/Flickr

still see the stage, albeit through the fence.

"We heard the feedback, we

heard the comments, and as soon as we did that we made those adjustments," Cote said.

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COURT

'BalACLava rapist' gets day parole after more than 30 years in jail

A man known as the "balACLava rapist" who sexually assaulted women in Alberta decades ago is being granted day parole in British Columbia after more than 30 years behind bars.

Larry Takahashi, 63, was serving three life sentences after admitting to raping at least 30 women in Edmonton in the 1970s and 1980s.

Takahashi was also permitted day parole 10 years ago, but it was revoked. Parole board documents said he violated conditions of his release by meeting with another sex offender at a beach without his parole officer's permission.

The decision by the Parole Board of Canada that grants his most-recent release says Takahashi continues to have rape fantasies and is considered a moderate-to-high risk to reoffend. But it also says his willing participation in correctional programming has led to an overall reduction in his risk-factor ratings.

It also notes that he's been clean from drugs for years, has abstained from pornography and displays increased

accountability and transparency with his case managers.

"The positives in your case are observable and measurable. Further, you have not been violent in years," says the decision dated July 8.

Takahashi wore a balACLava to hide his face during attacks in Edmonton highrise apartments, but a fingerprint discovered on an unscrewed light bulb at one attack scene led to his arrest.



The positives in your case are observable.

Parole Board decision

The parole board says Takahashi has been accepted at a halfway house in the B.C.'s Lower Mainland and notes that restricting him to the Vancouver area will assist in monitoring his behaviour.

Takahashi will have to adhere to a number of conditions including curfews, avoiding post-secondary campuses and

abstaining from pornography, drugs and alcohol. He's also forbidden from travelling with women in any vehicle other than a bus or SkyTrain without his parole supervisor's permission.

The board says it considered statements of Takahashi's victims as part of the review. It said one statement described the "never-ending devastating impact" his crime has had, and how that victim's anger extends to the justice system.

It says it denied full parole because Takahashi's self-management skills have not advanced to a point to mitigate his risk.

The decision notes that Takahashi used to deny having rape fantasies, but now admits them.

"The board asked you if they were related to the memories of your sex crimes and you agreed they were, but you went on to explain these memories no longer lead to deviant thinking, rather to an understanding of the impact your crimes have had on your victims."

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Deputy Premier Sarah Hoffman says the province is fighting the regulation so taxpayers aren't on the hook for \$2 billion. COURTESY GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA

Notley competence in question: Expert

POLITICS

'Enron clause' incident will be hard to overcome: Prof



Jeremy Simes
For Metro | Calgary

The fiasco over the "Enron clause," the centrepiece of a recently-launched NDP government lawsuit, is the first time Rachel Notley's competence as a leader has been truly questioned, according to a Mount Royal University (MRU) political scientist.

Deputy Premier Sarah Hoffman admitted on Wednesday that the energy minister wasn't made aware of the regulation until March 2016, but evidence suggests the government may have known about the clause before that.

Despite the energy minister not being aware, the clause has been publicly on the books since the former PCs changed the legislation in 2001.

Premier Rachel Notley also

referred to the regulation as a "loophole the size of seven different large trucks," recorded on the March 10, 2016 Hansard.

Lori Williams, a political scientist and professor at MRU, said the incident raises questions about co-ordination and competence.

"It's going to be a tough one for her to overcome," Williams said. "We've had a premier, for the most part, that's seemed quite bright and entrepreneurial, but now we have someone who is showing that dissonance or contradiction."

Official Opposition Wildrose also released a September briefing note that showed Balancing Pool officials knew the ramifications of increasing the carbon levy to power purchasing agreements.

"Either the Deputy Premier isn't being told all the facts, or is willfully hiding the truth when it comes to the timeline of when the NDP government knew about the impact breaking PPAs would have," said electricity and renewables critic Don MacIntyre. "Either way, these points do not justify legal action."

But Hoffman defended the

government's claim that they were unaware, emphasizing the September briefing note made no mention of the Enron clause specifically.

"I feel like the Wildrose keeps getting this wrong," she said. "They want the government to let profitable electricity companies, which have made about \$10-billion in profits, off-load what could be \$2 billion in losses to the public all because of a bad deal."

But Mayor Naheed Nenshi again slammed the government for the lawsuit on Wednesday, saying the city-owned Enmax has abided by the law.

"It's particularly weird because I happen to know that they were warned repeatedly that this may trigger the very thing that they're suing themselves about right now, and in fact, had they done the climate change policy just slightly differently they would have been able to avoid this trigger," Nenshi said.

"Enmax is owned by the rate payers, so if Enmax has to take a penalty, it's the City of Calgary citizens that will end up having to pay for that. So even their logic doesn't make any sense."

THE EVIDENCE

Queen's Printer

The "Enron clause," also known as 4.3(j) in legislation, has been on the books since the former PC government overhauled the electricity industry in 2001. The government has called it "secret," when in fact it's been there since they took power.

The Alberta Leaders Debate

During the Alberta Leaders Debate in April 2015, former Premier Jim Prentice questioned Notley on how the government would pay

billions of dollars in damages if the coal-fired power plants were closed early. In response, Notley said those damages would be owed, adding the phasing out of coal would give the government social license.

Rachel Notley during March legislature sitting

On March 10, Rachel Notley referred to the clause as a "loophole" that was "negotiated by the previous government," after the Wildrose criticized

the government for allegedly causing TransCanada to terminate its PPA. Despite the March reference, legal action wasn't taken until July.

Balancing Pool briefing note

A September briefing note by the board of the Balancing Pool shows officials were reviewing agreements that were affected by the government's carbon levy hike. Officials didn't specifically note the Enron clause, but were aware of termination ramifications for PPAs.

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INFRASTRUCTURE

Collision map 'proxy' for cyclist needs



Samantha Power
For Metro | Edmonton

A group has created a map that could reveal where cycling infrastructure should be built in the city.

Slow Streets, a blog on urban planning, has compiled and mapped the locations of bike collisions in the city.

Samuel Baron, a writer with Slow Streets based out

of Vancouver, says bike collision locations demonstrate how people want to cycle through city streets.

"It acts as a proxy for latent demand for infrastructure in the area," said Baron, who is in the master of urban studies program at Simon Fraser University.

The City of Edmonton says it does use collision mapping as part of its determination of where cycling infrastructure should be created.

"There are lots of factors going into planning," says Amanda Gelin, acting general supervisor for urban transportation with the city. "Collision data and conflict points are one of those factors."

Gelin says the city also uses consultations processes and reports from people on near-miss collisions and reports of problematic areas.

She says collision mapping is not the only indicator of

human behaviour, as once infrastructure is built, behaviour changes.

Still, this is the first time the collision data has been compiled in a public manner, something Baron says is important to how Edmonton residents react and consider cycling habits and need.

"It shows the average person what's happening," said Baron. "It reveals desire lines publicly and shows human behaviour."



The congregation of Southminster-Steinhauer United Church are giving away half a million dollars. KEVIN TUONG/FOR METRO

Church gives \$500K to the community

RELIGION

Leaders say programs more important than debt repayment



Alex Boyd
Metro | Edmonton

If you got \$500,000, would you pay off your mortgage or give it all away?

An Edmonton church faced this question when a program they supported 50 years ago wrapped up and sold its facilities, leaving them with the profits.

They chose option B. "This is not a time to be focused on our survival; it's a time to focus on the needs of community," said Southminster-Steinhauer United Church minister Nancy Steeves.

Despite a quarter-million-dollar mortgage, Steeves said there was no question what to do with the money.

The church chose eight grants, based on a goal of strengthening the social safety net in Edmonton, Steeves said.

"We still see housing as a significant need in the Edmonton area, and it's a real priority for us to address it in some way," she said, adding the church also wanted to support outreach and spirituality.

As religious attendance declines, many churches are struggling to remain afloat. According to Statistics Canada almost a

BY THE NUMBERS

\$200K

Amount given to Edmonton Inner City Housing Society to build 78 new social-housing units

\$10K

Amount used to renovate one of the kitchens in an Easter Seals House

\$50K

Amount given to fYrefly in Schools, a program to empower LGBTQ youth

\$200K

Amount to be invested for use in future grants

quarter of Canadians had no religious affiliation in 2011, up from 16.5 per cent a decade earlier.

Still, Steeves said that's no reason to abandon the DNA of the church.

"Churches may continue to close and may in the future not exist in the fashion that we've known them, but I think spiritual communities will always find a way to be together."

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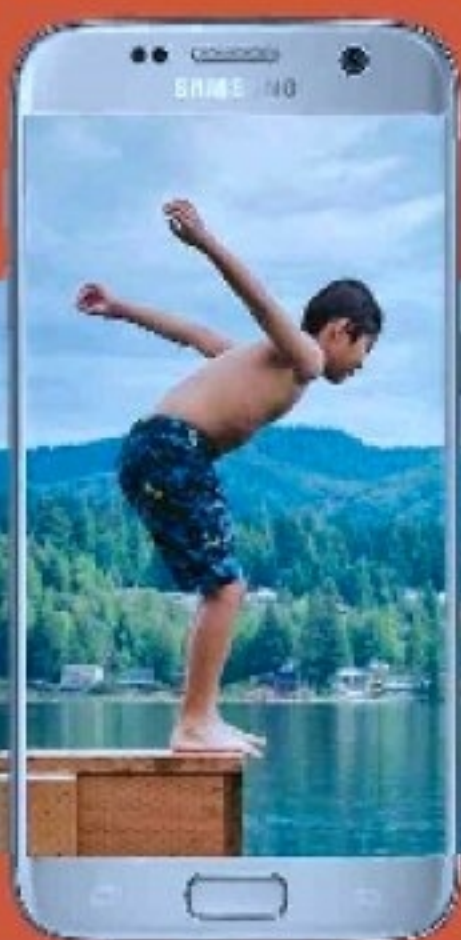
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CHARITY

Hope Mission kitchen halted by gas problem

A ruptured gas line forced officials to evacuate the Hope Mission Wednesday morning, leaving some people without lunch.

Firefighters arrived at around 11:30 a.m. to tell staff at the social care agency they had to leave, according to spokesperson Robin Padanyi.

The Mission serves about 1,000 meals a day to Edmontonians in the inner city, and at the time people were just starting to line up for the midday meal.

"I anticipate a lot of our guests weren't able to get lunch, but hopefully they'll come back for dinner," Padanyi said.

According to ATCO, which provides gas and electricity, a directional drill at a construction site hit a gas line near 106 Avenue and 99 Street. Buildings from 106 to 108 Avenue and 85 to 101 Street were affected.

People were allowed back into the Mission after about an hour, and Padanyi said they handed out bagged lunches to anyone still around.

But the main gas line is still off and they weren't sure when it would be turned back on, meaning their kitchen isn't operational.

Luckily, the stew they were cooking for lunch is still mostly warm, and they'll serve it alongside cold soup and sandwiches.

Padanyi said he hoped food for tomorrow will be served without problems.

ATCO said it expects gas to go back on by 4 p.m. and staff will start going door to door to start relighting pilot lights.

The company said gas lines hit by people digging are common. ALEX BOYD/METRO WITH FILES FROM KEVIN MAIMANN

“

I anticipate a lot of our guests weren't able to get lunch.

Hope Mission spokesperson
Robin Padanyi

IN BRIEF

Pokémon Go's knock-on effect helps animal shelters

People have rediscovered walking with the popularity of Pokémon Go and local animal rescues may be the winners.

The Greater Edmonton Animal Rescue Society signed up for the charitable app ResQwalk, which donates money based on kilometres walked by volunteers.

In the past week volunteers have logged more than 682 kilometres

for GEARS, surpassing the 460 in the past month.

GEARS President Liz Pankhurst says money received depends on the ranking in relation to other charities.

"It's hard to say for sure as other groups are promoting similar things," said Pankhurst. She says GEARS will continue to use Pokémon Go as a way to up the group's kilometres as long as it's still a thing.

SAMANTHA POWER/METRO



Fred West and James Harynuk got funding from the Partnership for Clean Competition for their anti-doping research. CONTRIBUTED

Alberta duo out to defeat drug cheats

SPORT RESEARCH

U of A chemists have created new anti-doping method



Alex Boyd
Metro | Edmonton

As the number of athletes banned from the Rio Olympics for doping continues to climb, the hunt for better tests for performance enhancing drugs is on.

Fred West and James Harynuk, two University of Alberta chemists, have joined the race, thanks to new fund-

ing from the Partnership for Clean Competition, a non-profit founded by, among others, the U.S. Olympic Committee and the National Football League. But their research has a twist: They want to find a method to test for banned substances — before they even know what the substance is. Let us explain.

The problem with a lot of testing, according to Harynuk, is that illegal labs are churning out a steady flow of new substances, leaving drug screeners playing catch-up.

"Usually, by the time the substance is banned, the athletes have moved on to newer, even harder to trace substances," he said.

Put simply, their plan is based

on the idea that steroids tend to look somewhat similar, and if you know a lot about the known ones, you'll be better at predicting the ones you haven't seen yet.

First, West will create a whole bunch of steroids and modified steroids to create a training library of samples. Then, Harynuk will use all the new data gathered from that library to create a predictive model for anticipating what new, unknown steroids could look like. Harynuk uses a needle in a haystack as an analogy.

"Currently, in most doping control labs, they know exactly what they're looking for," he said, meaning the list of known steroids. "So the whole analytic-

al method is designed to throw out everything except for those specific molecules."

That means any unrecognized steroids get thrown out with the bathwater. "What we're going to do now is try to imagine this haystack from a few different angles and then mine through this mountain of data looking for suspicious signals, and then see if the suspicious signal is consistent with a possible structure of a steroid."

The new funding is about \$400,000 over two years, with the possibility of extension for a third. Harynuk and West were the only Canadian team to get it.

If their plan works, Harynuk hopes this could help close the door on designer steroids.

ENERGY CONSUMPTION

Edmonton homes worst for environment

A local eco-house expert says it's time to ditch the suburban single-family home, after a study showed Edmonton homes emit the highest greenhouse gases of any Canadian city.

The University of British Columbia study estimated energy consumption in major Canadian cities between 1997 and 2009 based on factors like population density, the weather and the kind of energy consumed.

"I think we need to start thinking in terms of more central multi-family housing and give up on the dream of the suburban single-family house," said Peter Amerongen, with Habitat Studio, adding that Edmonton probably has the least energy-efficient housing stock in the



Mayor Don Iveson worked on a net-zero building in Edmonton last winter. METRO

country.

Montreal homes boasted the lowest greenhouse gas emissions, credited partly to high

population density and the use of hydroelectric power. Calgary followed Edmonton with the second highest emissions, which

researchers said is partly due to the use of coal-based electricity coupled with cold winters.

Amerongen, a 40-year construction veteran who developed the Riverdale net-zero home, said Albertans waste energy because of low prices and there has been a lack of political pressure in past years to combat greenhouse gases. He said the NDP government has started to turn that around with a carbon tax and an energy efficiency program.

Alberta's late start on curbing emissions is not entirely negative, as it means changes can be made more efficiently with current technology. "It's getting really urgent that we do something about this," Amerongen said. KEVIN MAIMANN/METRO

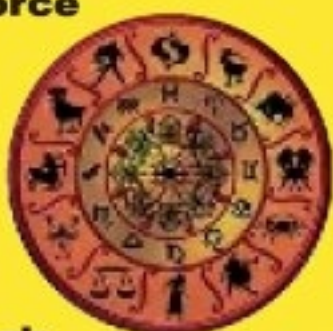
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— FROM THE DESK OF AMY SCHUMER —

Hello, Canada!

I have a book coming out! Look for a cover with a very large image of a girl's lower back tattoo. Do they have tramp stamps in Canada? Probably not as many as we have in America. You guys strike me as all very beautiful, wholesome, happy people. I am envious of your health care system and sensible attitudes about gun safety. If you made a horrible permanent decision on your lower back when you were only eighteen years old, I bet your insurance has already covered the cost of removing that mistake for you. You strike me as people who don't need to be cheered up, but I was born to cheer people up. Even when they don't need cheering up.

I've been keeping journals since I was thirteen years old and it was rewarding, painful, and highly cringe-inducing to go through them in preparation to write my book. But I hope it was worth it. I hope you enjoy laughing and crying along with me as you read. To be honest with you, I don't understand why you bother reading in Canada. The roster of Canadian actors and comics is an embarrassment of riches, and if I lived in the country that produced John Candy, Catherine O'Hara, Phil Hartman, Mike Myers, and Leslie Nielsen, I sure as hell wouldn't be focusing on books. Go watch a Seth Rogen movie! Brag to every American you know that Samantha Bee is Canadian. You guys get to claim her! She is brilliant and funny and she's YOURS!

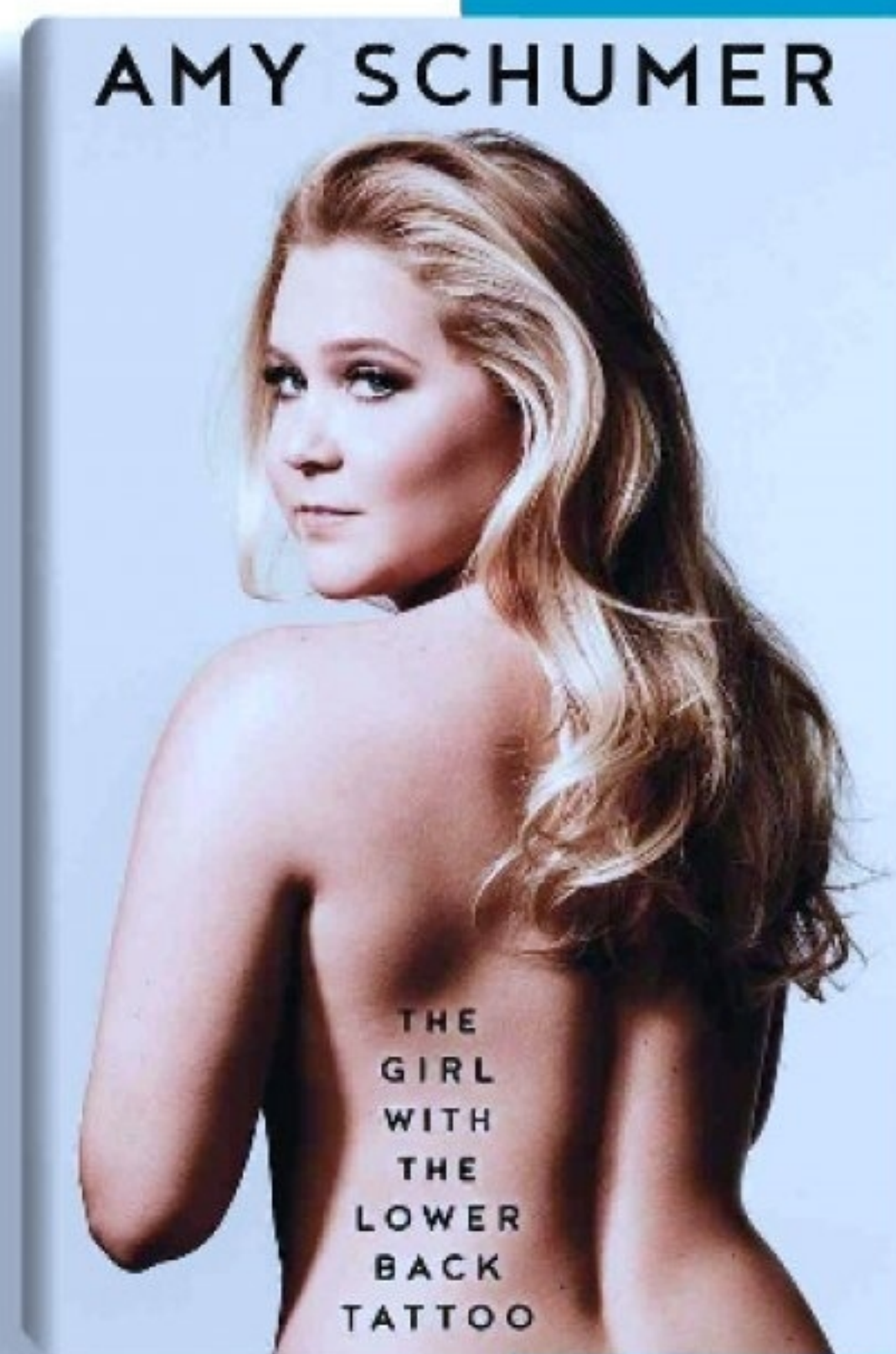
I hope you don't mind me telling you that I have drank more Labatt beers in my life than I care to admit. But not while I was writing this book. I was dead sober for all of that. I promise. But I don't mind if you crack one open right now because I am truly honoured that you are willing to spend some time with me by reading my book. Again, I don't really understand why you would rather read thousands of tiny words on a page when you could be watching anything Norm Macdonald has ever done. Or Ryan Reynolds. RYAN REYNOLDS! Now you're just mocking me, Canada.

Enjoy the book. I'm trying really hard to show you a good time. But that's some stiff competition.

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'High consequence' training

MILITARY

More than 350 specialists are testing skills in realistic setting

The possibility of a terrorist attack using biological or chemical weapons makes the focus of a 15-day NATO training exercise at Canada's largest training base even more important, says a counterterrorism expert.

Even though the majority of recent attacks have involved explosives or armed gunmen, that doesn't mean a more serious threat isn't out there, says Chris Corry with Defence Research and Development Canada.

"Although people think it's a low-risk threat, it's a high-consequence threat," the former Canadian infantry officer said Tuesday.

Exercise Precise Response 2016 at Canadian Forces Base Suffield in southeastern Alberta isn't about high-tech military equipment or heavily armed soldiers. It is focusing on chemical, biological, radiological and explosive material.



German soldiers gear up to enter the "hot zone" during the NATO exercise at CFB Suffield, Alta., on Tuesday. JEFF MCINTOSH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

More than 350 chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear specialists from 10 NATO countries — including Canada, the United States, Britain, France and Germany — are testing their skills in a realistic environment. Nearly all of the participants are wearing some sort of bio-



Outside of Canada, we're also looking at our linkages to NATO.

Warrant Officer
Stephan Allen

hazard suit.

During three simultaneous exercises set in the imaginary country of Canuckistan, teams investigate reports of terrorist activity and follow clues to chemical weapons factories and eventually bring back material to mobile labs to check its

content.

Capt. Nesse Timmers of the Netherlands is commanding one of the exercises. He said a team approach is important in the battle against terrorism so as to be ready for when the "real deal" comes along.

"This will be the future of all armies," Timmers said. "It's not one army that will win the war. It's co-operation between all armies."

Canadian Warrant Officer Stephan Allen said the Suffield exercise is a chance to practise and apply all the specialized skills that the countries have.

"Outside of Canada, we're also looking at our linkages to NATO, so if we have a joint task force going anywhere we can apply some specialists and operators to help out a larger operation," said Allen.

But he doesn't believe the current world climate is making a difference on the approach the international soldiers are taking.

"It's one of the many threats that's always out there. It's not really super high. I don't see it tied to the last few months or anything like that," Allen said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

OTTAWA

Group calls for body cams on police



Haley Ritchie
Metro | Ottawa

The Canadian Association of Somali Lawyers released an open letter of support on Wednesday for the family of Abdirahman Abdi — the Somali-Canadian man who died following a violent arrest in Ottawa Sunday — asking for more transparency in SIU investigations and body cameras on all Ontario police officers.

"It's a national issue," said president Billeh Hamud.

The open letter makes three main demands of the Ontario government, all related to the Abdi case.

"The most important thing is transparency, and that's not being done right now," said Hamud, who wants to see SIU investigations opened up to the public. The SIU is Ontario's civilian oversight agency that investigates cases resulting in serious injury, death or sexual assault when police are involved.

The group also wants to see body cams — small cameras attached to officers while they work — on police across Ontario.

Hamud said the group also wants more training that addresses both race and mental health.

"There obviously is a pattern we've seen recently with Andrew Loku and Abdirahman with black men and in particular those with mental illness or mental distress," he said. (The Toronto police officer who killed Loku was cleared by the SIU in March.)

While Hamud is Toronto-based, he said CASL has members across the country. He said although he's glad the incident is getting widespread attention, the organization felt a responsibility to add more Somali voices to the discussion.

IN BRIEF

Man in wheelchair killed on tracks by train

A 29-year-old New Brunswick man in a wheelchair was killed when he was struck by a CN train at a crossing in Moncton, police said Wednesday. RCMP Const. Derek Black said the man from Moncton was on the tracks at a crossing near Robinson and Victoria streets when he was hit by the train at 1:45 a.m. "Police are trying to determine why he was on the tracks and what exactly happened," he said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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ROYALTY GUESS WHO'S COMING BACK TO CANADA?

Catherine, Duchess of Cambridge and Prince William, Duke of Cambridge, attend the presentations at the America's Cup World Series on July 24 in Portsmouth, England. William and Kate will pay a visit to Canada this fall — their second since getting married five years ago. They will visit British Columbia and Yukon later this year, Gov. Gen. David Johnston announced Wednesday. The royal couple's first visit to Canada followed their 2011 wedding and took them to Ottawa, CHRIS JACKSON/GETTY IMAGES

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People stand near a makeshift memorial near the Saint-Etienne-du-Rouvray church on Wednesday. CHARLY TRIBALLEAU/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Acquaintances of killer unsurprised

FRANCE

Daesh video allegedly shows vow by teenager who slew priest

Adel Kermiche nursed his obsession with jihad in the quiet French town of Saint-Etienne-du-Rouvray, and his twice-thwarted attempt to join Daesh extremists in Syria ended with an attack on an elderly priest.

New details emerged Wednesday about the 19-year-old, one of two assailants who took hostages Tuesday at a church in the town, slitting the throat of

the Rev. Jacques Hamel before being shot to death by police.

The attack was claimed by Daesh, which released a video Wednesday allegedly showing Kermiche and his accomplice pledging allegiance to the group.

In it, Kermiche identifies himself by the nom de guerre Abul Jaleel al-Hanafi and says his compatriot is called Ibn Omar. Speaking in broken Arabic, Kermiche recites: "We pledge allegiance and obedience to Emir of the faithful Abu Bakr al-Baghdady in hardship and in ease."

Those who knew him said Kermiche appeared to think of little else other than trying to join the extremist group in Syria after the January 2015 attacks on the sa-



I knew it was him. I was sure.

Attacker's neighbour

tirical newspaper Charlie Hebdo and a kosher supermarket.

"He said it wasn't possible to live peacefully in France. He spoke with words that did not belong to him. He was mesmerized," his mother said in an interview last year after her son was detained and returned to France after trying to make it to Syria.

Initially Kermiche was jailed, but a judge ordered him placed him under limited house arrest.

A neighbour, who gave only his first name, Redwan, was at work when he learned about Tuesday's attack at the church.

"I knew it was him. I was sure," the 18-year-old said. "We tried to bring him to his senses, but every time we did it he was bringing in a verse from the Qur'an. He was inventing things."

A family acquaintance defended the efforts of Kermiche's parents.

"They gave them everything in material terms, in terms of love," said Annie Geslin. "They did not succeed in getting their son to return to a, how to say it, a normal behaviour."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

REACTION

A sign of war, but not religious one: Pope

Pope Francis, deeply saddened by the slaying of an elderly priest during Mass in a church in the French countryside, warned grimly Wednesday that the world is at war but cautioned against labelling it a war among religions.

At the start of his first ever trip to Eastern Europe, where anti-migrant sentiments have been rising, he also encouraged Europe to welcome refugees from war, hunger and religious persecution and called for "courage" and "compassion."

Francis was celebrating World Youth Day in Poland, where the conservative government has shut the doors to migrants and many fear that accepting Muslim refugees would threaten the nation's security and its Catholic identity.

As he started the five-day trip, he told an audience of Poland's president, diplomats and other dignitaries that what is needed is "a spirit of readiness to welcome those fleeing from wars and hunger, and solidarity with those deprived of their fundamental rights, including the right to profess one's faith in freedom and safety."

While the speech had in mind the hundreds of thou-

sands of migrants fleeing Syria, Iraq and other Mideast countries, as well as impoverished nations in Africa, his reference to practicing one's faith in safety could also be seen as an allusion to the slaying of the 85-year-old French priest by two extremists in Normandy on Tuesday.

The murder compounded security fears surrounding Francis' trip, which were already high due to a string of violent attacks in France and Germany. Polish officials say they have deployed tens of thousands of security officials to cover the event.

Francis spoke to reporters as he flew from Rome to Krakow. Asked about the slaying of the priest, Francis replied: "It's war; we don't have to be afraid to say this."

He then sought to avoid any misunderstanding of his definition of war.

"I only want to clarify that, when I speak of war, I am really speaking of war," he said. "A war of interests, for money, resources, dominion of peoples."

"I am not speaking of a war of religions. Religions don't want war. The others want war," he added. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Pope Francis prays during a meeting with Polish bishops at Wawel royal castle's cathedral in Krakow on Wednesday during World Youth Day. DANIEL DAL ZENNARO/AFP/GETTY IMAGES



Barack Obama said his 2008 battle against Hillary Clinton was incredibly tough. J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NATIONAL CONVENTION

Democrats break out Obama

The Democrats wheeled out their biggest hitter Wednesday night, and he didn't pull his punches.

U.S. President Barack Obama took the convention stage, smiling at chants of "Yes we can," and used all his skills as an orator to speak for Hillary Clinton as "a mother and a grandmother who would do anything to help our children thrive."

He spoke of the 2008 race for the nomination in which he beat Clinton. "Every time I thought the race was won, she just came back stronger," Obama said, pointing out that Clinton's

time as secretary of state had her involved in security decisions.

"There has never been a man or a woman — not me, not Bill or anybody — who has been more qualified to serve as president of the United States," Obama said.

And he had harsh words for the Republicans, saying this is "not a typical election" but instead a "more fundamental choice about who we are."

The Republican convention presented "a deeply pessimistic vision of a country where we turn against each other and against the world," the president said.

His support for Clinton is also driven by deep concern that Donald Trump might win and unravel his eight years in office.

Wednesday night's Democratic lineup was aimed at emphasizing Clinton's national-security credentials. It came in the wake of comments by Trump earlier in the day encouraging Russia to find emails Clinton says she deleted as secretary of state.

New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, a billionaire himself, took aim at Trump's bankruptcies. METRO, WITH FILES FROM THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

+ KAINE SPEAKS

Clinton's running mate, Virginia Sen. Tim Kaine, praised Clinton's character and accepting the nomination to run for vice-president. Kaine repeatedly invoked Bernie Sanders' name and launched a fierce attack on "one-man wrecking crew" Trump, including his failure to publish details of his taxes. METRO



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Charges dropped in death of Gray

BALTIMORE

Attorney says fault lies with evasive police, justice system

More than a year after a black man suffered a broken neck in a police van, the effort to hold six officers criminally responsible for his death collapsed Wednesday when the city dropped all charges.

A day before another trial was to begin, prosecutors dismissed charges against three remaining officers, blaming police for a biased investigation that failed to produce a single conviction in the death of Freddie Gray.

Gray, 25, was fatally injured in April 2015 while he was handcuffed and shackled but left otherwise unsecured in the back of the van. His death led to the city's worst riots in decades.

On Wednesday, Democratic State's Attorney Marilyn Mosby blamed the outcome on an unco-

operative police department and a broken justice system.

Mosby outlined what prosecutors have called sabotage, saying officers who were witnesses were also part of the department's investigative team. She said "obvious questions" weren't asked during interrogations. She al-



We're going to continue to be fighters for Freddie.

Richard Shipley

leged lead detectives were slow to provide information and failed to execute search warrants for key text messages. She also accused investigators of creating notes to contradict the medical examiner's conclusion that Gray's death was a homicide.

Gene Ryan, president of Baltimore's police union, called Mosby's comments "outrageous."

"The state's attorney could not accept the evidence," Ryan

said. "She had her own agenda."

Prosecutors alleged that the officers were criminally negligent when they defied a written directive to buckle all suspects into a seat belt in the van. Instead, they were accused of placing Gray head-first into the metal compartment on his stomach. The officers' further erred when they chose not to call for a medic after Gray indicated he wanted to go a hospital, according to the prosecution.

The judge ruled that although the officers may have exercised poor judgment, prosecutors failed to prove that the officers tried to hurt Gray. Without establishing intent, he said, the criminal charges were baseless.

Gray's stepfather, Richard Shipley, stood next to Mosby as she delivered her remarks.

"We're going to continue to be fighters for Freddie," he said. "We are going to see that new legislation is carried out and new laws that will help this community and other communities. We're grateful that he didn't die in vain." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Gloria Darden, the mother of Freddie Gray, wipes away tears at a news conference Wednesday. STEVE RUARK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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Bomb kills dozens in Syria's Kurdish region

MIDDLE EAST

Area was struck amid ongoing fight with Daesh stronghold

A suicide bomber riding a live-stock truck laden with explosives blew himself up Wednesday in a crowded district in the predominantly Kurdish town of Qamishli in northern Syria, killing 44 people in a new attack claimed by Daesh.

Residents and activists describe a huge explosion in the western district of the town.

Hours after the early-morning explosion, workers continued to search for survivors under the rubble of buildings, some of them totally levelled. Most of the victims were civilians, who were lingering in the district that also houses a station for the Kurdish security forces. It was not immediately

clear if any Kurdish fighters were among those killed.

"Terror is all I saw among the residents when I first arrived. I was shocked at the extent of destruction in the homes and shops," said Decile Husen, a 23-year old media activist who works with the Kurdish ANHA Hawar news agency. "One home was reduced to rubble. Nothing was left of it."

Qamishli, near the Turkish border, is mainly controlled by Kurds but Syrian government forces are present and control the town's airport.

The Kurds, Syria's largest ethnic minority, have carved out a semi-autonomous enclave in Syria's north since the start of the civil war in 2011, where they run their own affairs.

Kurdish officials said the Daesh militants targeted the town in retaliation for the ongoing offensive they lead against Manbij, a Daesh stronghold east of Qamishli.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Residents gather at the site of a bomb attack in Qamishli.

DELIL SOULEIMAN/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

CALIFORNIA

Bulldozer operator killed in wildfire fight

The operator of a bulldozer was killed when it rolled over during the fight against a wildfire near Big Sur that has destroyed 20 homes and spread across more than 93 square kilometres, California fire officials said Wednesday.

Another operator escaped injury when a second bulldozer rolled over and sustained minor damage, according to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

The name and age of the operator who was killed was not immediately available.

Battalion Chief Robert Fish

said the operator was working in steep and difficult-to-access terrain when the accident occurred. Fish did not have further details about the incident but said 60 bulldozers were being used in the fight against the fire.

The death occurred as firefighters worked around the clock against the blaze near a scenic stretch of the California coast, where smoke and the threat of flames forced the closure of state parks near Big Sur, a popular tourist area.

At least 2,000 structures were threatened. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GERMANY

Fifteen-year-old accused of planning violent rampage

German authorities have arrested a 15-year-old boy who they suspect of having planned a rampage and also believe was in contact with a teenager who killed nine people in Munich last week.

The boy was arrested on Monday and sent to a psychiatric facility. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Police raid mosque known as extremism 'hot spot'

Authorities in Germany say police have raided a mosque believed to be a "hot spot" for Islamic extremists in the city of Hildesheim. Officials said the apartments of eight members of the "German-speaking Islam Circle Hildesheim" group were also searched. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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Vancouver housing overheated

REAL ESTATE

National agency raises risk rating to highest level

Canada's national housing agency rang more alarm bells about Vancouver's real estate sector after it released a report Wednesday saying there is now strong evidence of problematic conditions in the city.

In a quarterly housing market assessment released Wednesday, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp. increased its risk rating for Vancouver to its highest level for the first time since it began releasing the reports last year.

The housing agency said it is seeing evidence of an overheated market, which occurs when demand outstrips supply, and price acceleration in the city. Previously, it had said there was strong indications of overvaluation as prices for single detached homes have soared higher than what economic fundamentals can support.

Robyn Adamache, a principal market analyst for CMHC, said there have been signs of overheating in Vancouver's real estate market for some time, but the agency didn't

want to prematurely signal that warning.

"We had been waiting for a couple of quarters of evidence to be able to make that call," Adamache said.

"And part of what contributed to making that call this quarter is that we have started to see the multi-family sector, including both townhomes and apartments, also moving into overheated conditions in terms of the sales to new listings ratio, whereas before it was only on the single-family side."

CMHC's assessment comes as the B.C. government plans to implement several measures, including a 15 per cent tax for foreigners purchasing property, in an effort to cool down house prices that are among the highest in North America.

CMHC's report Wednesday also said that evidence of problematic conditions in Canada's housing market as a whole has risen from weak to moderate.

Toronto, Calgary, Saskatoon and Regina all showed strong evidence of problematic conditions, according to the report, while real estate markets in Edmonton, Winnipeg, Hamilton, Montreal and Quebec have exhibited moderate evidence of imbalances.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Workers clear blockages from pumps at a Vancouver station. The regional utility has launched a campaign to convince residents not to flush anything but bodily waste and toilet paper. CONTRIBUTED - METRO VANCOUVER UTILITIES/ THE CANADIAN PRESS

SANITATION

Flushable wipes controversy gets dirty

The long-running "flushable wipes" controversy has turned into an ongoing war of words in Canada, with manufacturers insisting their moist towelettes are more sewer-friendly than ever as municipalities urge citizens to put them in the garbage, not down the loo.

More than a dozen lawsuits have been launched in the United States against manufacturers, claiming damages to individual or municipal sewer systems, but in Canada the fight is so far a public relations battle.

Metro Vancouver, for instance, is spending \$200,000 on an "Adult Toilet Training" program this summer, using humorous videos and ads in pink porta-potties to bring the message to its 2.5 million system users that it's not OK to flush "flushable" wipes — or anything else other than "pee, poo and toilet paper."

In Fredericton, the city warns: "If you did not eat it first, you should find another way to dispose of it," on its website. Toronto's wastewater div-

ision advises residents not to flush any wipes — "even those that say flushable can cause a problem."

The industry, however, is unrepentant. Lynn Matheus, senior research and engineering manager for Kimberly-Clark, the company that manufactures popular Cottonelle wipes, insists that flushable wipes are just that. "We continue to stand firmly behind our claims that our wipes are flushable and they are safe for sewer and septic systems," she said in an interview, adding the U.S. Federal Trade Commission in June closed without action an investigation into whether Kimberly-Clark's marketing of flushable wipes is misleading.

Matheus estimated Canada's flushable wipes market is about \$20 million per year, up about 10 per cent from 2015.

Darrell Mussatto, Metro Vancouver utilities chairman, is just as convinced that the wipes are a problem.

"It cost us \$100,000 in 2015 to declog the pumps in the sewer system to remove flushable wipes," he said.

Barry Orr, a wastewater expert with the Municipal Enforcement Sewer Use Group, comprised of 29 Ontario communities, says he stands by his rough estimate of \$250 million per year in clog cleanup costs for Canadian utilities because of flushable wipes.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

4%

The rate at which the North American market for flushable wipes is growing, according to the Association of Nonwoven Fabrics Industry.

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ROSEMARY WESTWOOD ON WHAT HILLARY'S NOMINATION PORTENDS

The true, extended test of a Clinton presidency — and American society by extension — would be in how long it takes for another woman to similarly ascend.

Perhaps, like roughly 60 per cent of the U.S. electorate, you view Hillary Clinton ... let's say "unfavourably."

Perhaps, like Julian Assange, you consider the choice before Americans in November as akin to "asking me, do I prefer cholera or gonorrhea?" You might hate Clinton's hawkishness, dislike her handling of the email scandal, consider her too centrist, too liberal, or distrust her political motives. You might also be a raging sexist.

Feminism is the undercurrent to this week's Democratic National Convention. It coloured Bill Clinton's portrayal of his driven, defiant wife. And it has been personified in Lena Dunham, for millennial women; Meryl Streep, for second-wavers; and Michelle Obama for literally everybody.

According to the DNC, Clinton's rise is a game-changer for women in American society, too. That was made explicit nowhere more elegantly than in Michelle Obama's barnburner of a speech, in which she said that Clinton was the kind of leader who keeps putting "those cracks in the highest and hardest glass ceiling until they finally break through, lifting all of us along with her."

The Obama daughters now "take it for granted" that a woman can be president, Obama said. But can is not the same as will. And women might not all be lifted. At least, not immediately.

The Obama daughters now 'take it for granted' that a woman can be president, Michelle said. But can is not the same as will.

History is full of monumental firsts that do not open a floodgate of seconds, thirds, fourths and fifths. Canada hasn't had a woman prime minister since Kim Campbell in the 1990s. She held the job for a whopping four months. After Margaret Thatcher's long reign in the U.K., it was another quarter century before Theresa May

those advancements allow people to excuse their prejudice. "We must live in an equal society if a woman can be president!" Never mind the reality.

The true, extended test of a Clinton presidency — and American society by extension — would be in how long it takes for another woman to similarly ascend.



REMEMBER — WE DID IT FIRST Former prime minister Kim Campbell is seen in Vancouver in April 2015. Campbell's four-month tenure in 1993 was the last time a woman got close to the job. THE CANADIAN PRESS

landed at 10 Downing. When she did, English-language papers could only muster enough imagination to compare her to other women leaders, which left them all drawing Thatcher and Angela Merkel parallels.

In his new Revisionist History podcast, Malcolm Gladwell charts these yawning gaps between one woman's advancement and the next to tread in her footprints. He posits that moral licensing — a term used to describe the way people tend to excuse our general bad behaviour if we've done a good deed — could explain the phenomenon: Sexism continues to flourish even in the face of women's advancements precisely because

Every woman who attempts to chart this course will inevitably be and uniformly compared to Clinton. Her successes and failures will be the foil for them all.

In Canada, our concern over never once voting a woman into the PMO in a general election is oddly mute. It's not much of a burning problem, it would seem, that only 26 per cent of federal MPs are women, a rate that, while abysmal, is marginally better than provincial and municipal levels, which Simon Fraser University researcher Halena Seifert pegs at 25.7 per cent and 23 per cent, respectively.

Low though they may be, those numbers took decades to build up. A graph

produced by the website FiveThirtyEight shows the rise of women in U.S. Congress since 1917, and it has all the gradual elevation of a shallow beach.

Equal Voice, Canada's non-partisan organization dedicated to electing more women, has decided the best hope may just be to target the politically minded young and aim to reap the benefits decades from now. The group launched a project this summer called Daughters of the Vote, which is recruiting 338 young women to fill the seats in Parliament during a special event next year, when they'll learn about Canada's political institutions.

"We're investing 10, 20 years down the road," executive director Nancy Peckford told me. "Demystifying the process, helping them identify the number of roles you can play so they never dismiss formal political engagement as a way to make change."

The real kicker is that 1,500 young women have applied for those 338 spots, — more than the number of candidates in the last election, where women made up only one third. Equal Voice is also aiming for racial diversity, meaning the women they choose should "look like Canada," Peckford said.

Without such efforts, she added, it could take 90 years to close the gap.

This is "equality" in Canada, and the U.S.: A slow plod toward more women politicians that doesn't so much as increase your heartbeat, and a history of female leadership that reads as precipitous peaks and valleys.

So, yes, expect a momentous night for Clinton, and feminists may as well enjoy that as much as we can muster. There may not be another chance for a long, long time.



Bernie's is the real populist revolution



Linda McQuaig

Besides providing some powerful lines for Melania Trump's next speech, Michelle Obama reminded us this week how inspiring the Democrats can be at their best.

Indeed, while Donald Trump has grabbed political centre stage due to his sheer loudness, it may be the Democratic Party that is undergoing the more far-reaching transformation.

After years of drifting towards the centre, the Democrats have been profoundly shaken by Bernie Sanders' insurgent populist campaign.

Of course, Hillary Clinton is the Democratic nominee, but the clout exercised by the millions of committed Sanders supporters is reflected in the party's unusually progressive platform and the prominence the party has felt obliged to give to Sanders and Sen. Elizabeth Warren, whose popularity is further proof that the demise of Occupy Wall Street has been greatly exaggerated.

The youthful Sanders crowd, which threatened to derail the convention on opening day, isn't likely to go away. It's determined to shape the Democratic Party of the future, believing that the only way to respond to the class war being waged by an aggressive billionaire class is with backbone — a body part that's been noticeably missing from Democrats in recent decades.

In the midst of the 1930s Depression, Democratic president Franklin Roosevelt showed backbone, championing unions, bringing in universal pensions, taxing the rich and restraining Wall Street with the Glass-Steagall Act. Addressing a wildly cheering crowd at Madison Square

Garden in 1936, Roosevelt vowed to defy the bankers and financial tycoons lined up against him. "They are unanimous in their hate for me — and I welcome their hatred!"

Roosevelt's New Deal ushered in a postwar era in which workers made impressive economic gains as a rising middle class while the wealthy elite lost ground.

Starting in the late 1970s, however, the elite launched a forceful counteroffensive with the support of the Republican party, and the Democrats were surprisingly weak in response, eventually realigning themselves with Wall Street and voting with Republicans for financial deregulation and lower taxes on the rich.

Perhaps most stunning of recent Democratic abdications was the party's failure to mount even a feeble defence of the estate tax when George W. Bush and the GOP moved to gut it. The tax had been the pillar of progressive taxation in the U.S. for more than a century, applying only to the richest of the rich.

Much has been said about the alleged populism of Donald Trump, who is calling for a new round of staggeringly large tax cuts for the rich, including the complete elimination of the estate tax. As for the working poor: Trump opposes increasing the federal minimum wage, and has floated the idea of abolishing it altogether, allowing states to compete in setting ever-lower minimum wages.

The forces unleashed by Bernie Sanders hunger for a real populism, and they're unlikely to settle for anything less than a party that once again shows backbone against bellicose billionaires.

Linda McQuaig is a journalist and author.

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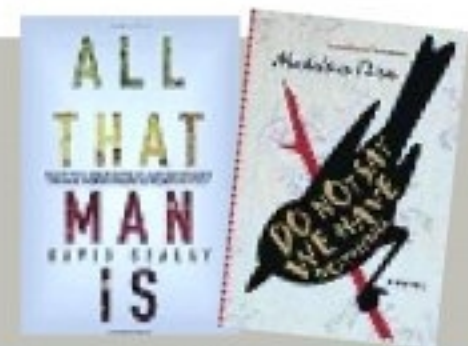
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Podcasts face an uphill battle

MEDIA

Canadian shows lack funds, support

Genna Buck
Metro Canada



When they see a new episode of *Witch, Please* in their podcast feeds and hear those familiar owl hoots, listeners know they can settle in for another hour or more of Hannah McGregor and Marcelle Kosman's funny, feminist banter on the Harry Potter series.

The Edmonton-based podcast hosts have passion, 3,000 listeners and a lively program. What they lack is any reliable way to make money from their work.

Despite a few breakout successes, like the media-criticism show *Canadaland*, the Canadian podcasting industry is in its infancy and dominated by repackaged radio shows. The format — audio content delivered via digital syndication — has been around for more than a decade.

"I listen to almost no Canadian (podcasts), because they usually feel like edited radio," McGregor said.

Podcasts, at their best, share features with great radio: important stories with high production values and a reliable release schedule. But the two forms are not synonymous.

"The pleasures of podcasting have to do with the intimacy of the audience," McGregor said.



Self-taught podcaster Hannah McGregor is wrapping up *Witch, Please*, a Harry Potter-themed program, and planning to start a new podcast soon. KEVIN TUONG/FOR METRO

"You feel like ... a specialized community of friends. Radio, because it's supposed to speak to the nation, doesn't really work in the same way."

Only one of the top ten podcasts on the Canadian iTunes charts is Canadian: *Love Me*, a CBC-backed program that recently wrapped its first season with no plans yet to renew.

That 1-to-10 ratio is "expected," said Lori Beckstead, a professor of digital media at Ryerson University.

Canada is a small media market, and unlike TV or radio creators, podcasters aren't protected by *Cancon* rules. At present

there's no Canada Council for the Arts grant for general podcasts.

To amass enough listeners to make money, podcasters need "an existing personal or business brand, or a niche topic that isn't serving audiences already out there," Beckstead said. "If you are just an average Joe or Josephine, it is a tough, tough uphill slog."

Canada doesn't have anything like the U.S. media companies that incubate, promote, and solicit ads for podcasts, like Panoply, Radiotopia and Gimlet Media, among others.

Some companies do sponsor podcasters in exchange for on-air

ads, but this route isn't feasible without a large audience.

McGregor said when she looked into it, given their listener base, a sponsor break in every biweekly episode would bring in \$15 to \$20 per month.

Patreon, a virtual tip-jar for artists, is "the only viable way to make money off a podcast in Canada," she said.

Kaitlin Prest knows that reality all too well. In 2008, when she became the host of *The Heart*, an audio program about sex and relationships, it was still a show on university radio in Montreal called *Audio Smut*. It became an independent podcast based

in New York City when Prest moved there in 2012.

"In Canada, it felt like you work at the CBC or you don't do radio," Prest said. Community radio also didn't provide a clear way to create a profitable business or a polished sound.

"I needed an editor, I needed an engineer, someone to fix the show and make it sound good. Those were things I had to learn all by myself," Prest said.

In New York, she found those resources, and a community of audio storytellers. Radiotopia picked up *The Heart* in 2014; investing \$24,000, Prest said.

Canada has podcast networks, but they're not throwing around that kind of money.

A notable one is the Toronto-based *Never Sleeps Network*, which founder Alex Ross describes as an "artists' commune." Members share the costs of running a small studio, and don't have sponsors. But what they're building — a base of listeners with a variety of niche interests — is worth money, Ross said.

"I have every comic book nerd in Toronto at my fingertips. Hobbies are the best ways to connect people," Ross said.

"Successful podcast networks are just floating," he added. "If one company was smart enough, they'd scoop us all up."

For now, Canadian podcasting is a labour of love.

"Success in Canada looks a lot different than in other countries. If we're getting up in the morning and going to the studio instead of our (jobs), that's success. If I can pay my bills, that's complete success, Ross said.

LISTEN TO THIS

Metro has some new podcasts of its own, with more on the way. Visit metronews.ca/podcasts to listen.

Scrub League: Canada's first eSports Podcast

A hilarious but rigorous show about the fastest-growing pop-culture phenomenon in the world: competitive video-gaming. Every week hosts Colin, Kevin and Samantha bring you the latest news and views from the world of eSports.



Nth Wave: A podcast about women and the media

Every week Metro's national columnist Rosemary Westwood sits down with a female guest to discuss what it's like to be a woman working in, engaging with, and being covered by the North American media.



JOHANNA SCHNELLER WHAT I'M WATCHING

Love is love is love on Looking

THE SHOW: *The Show: Looking*

THE MOVIE: *The Movie* (HBO)

THE MOMENT: The Moment: The wrong kiss

Patrick (Jonathan Groff), back in San Francisco for a wedding, is staying with Dom (Murray Bartlett). Lying in bed, they share a vaporizer. Years ago, they almost hooked up; today they're best friends.

"What if we got together now?" Patrick asks. "It's not the worst idea."

"It's up there," Dom says.

Patrick rises on his elbow. "Maybe this has been staring us in the face this whole time. On paper, it's — would you stop laughing?"

He flops back down. "But it would be nice, wouldn't it?" he goes on. "To suddenly find something by mistake that makes it all...easier?"

Dom leans over and kisses Patrick — first lightly, then deeply. They burst out laughing. I am heartened by how

square this movie is. We can't have sex because it'll wreck our friendship? It's like an '80s rom-com had a gay makeover — *St. Elmo's Fire* — so instead of Demi Moore, it's Patrick who has to forego his wild-child ways and grow up.

Its wisdom is so *Ladies' Home Journal*: It's okay not to want at 30 what you wanted at 18. Settling down is not selling out. No relationship is perfect; it's more about, do you like how he smells, do you laugh at the

same things, do you want to drink Ensure with him when you're old?

Near the end, Patrick takes a moment to marvel at how marriage has become *de rigueur* for queer people. That is worth celebrating. Boring is the new thrilling, and love is love is love is love.

Johanna Schneller is a media connoisseur who zeroes in on pop-culture moments. She appears Monday through Thursday.



Best friends Patrick, left, and Dom wonder about love in the two-hour HBO conclusion to the series *Looking*. CONTRIBUTED

Bachelorette gone bad

CRIME THRILLER

Author was surprised idea had not been used before

Sue Carter
For Metro Canada



For some women, just the idea of being invited to a childhood friend's weekend bachelorette party is a nightmare.

For U.K. author Ruth Ware, that socially awkward horror became the inspiration for her international best-selling debut psychological thriller, *In a Dark, Dark Wood*, a twisted and suspenseful mystery that entangles friendship, identity and memory with a possible murder.

Reclusive mystery novelist Leonora is surprised to receive an invitation to a bachelorette party — or “hen party” as it's known across the pond — to be held at an architecturally imposing glass house set deep in a remote forest.

Leonora hasn't spoken to her friend Claire in more than a decade, the reasons for which she reveals slowly after waking up battered in the hospital with a police officer stationed outside her door. Like Paula Hawkins' Rachel in *The Girl on the Train*, Leonora is an unreliable narrator at best as she struggles to remember exactly how the party ended in a bloody mess.

The idea for *In a Dark, Dark*

Wood came to Ware thanks to a friend's observation that a hen party would make an amazing setting for a thriller. “It was one of those ideas that you almost can't believe hasn't been done before. Literally, as soon as she said that I knew immediately that I wanted to write this book,” says Ware. “I've never had an experience like that before where the book almost plotted itself.”

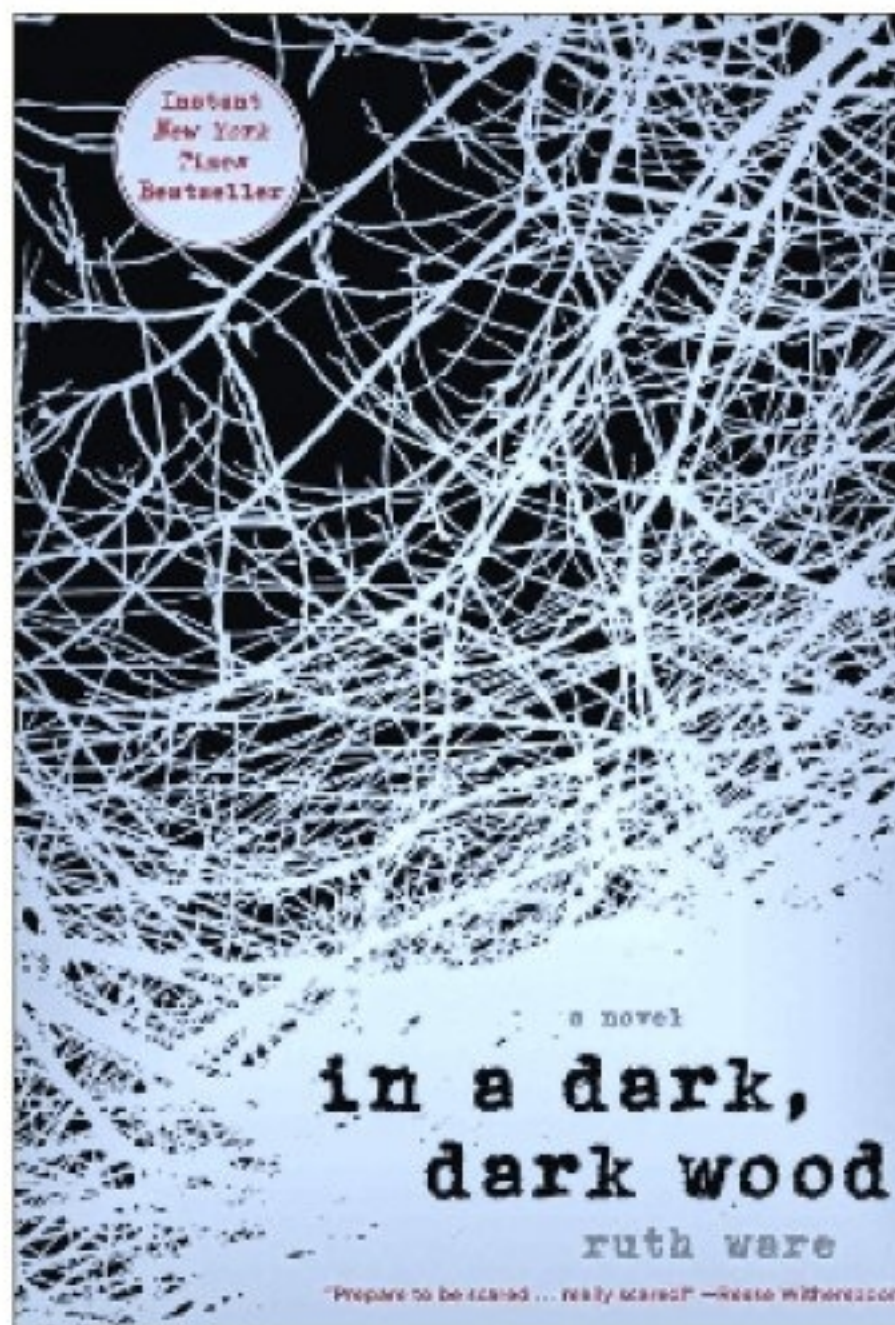
Ware says that all the elements were there: it's a high-stakes emotional event, usually serving a lot of alcohol, involving a small group of people who come together as strangers.

“I've been on weekends where the only person I know is the hen,” says Ware. “It is quite weird because you're thrust into this very intense camaraderie with people that you don't know terribly well.”

She has also observed that modern hen parties have become competitively elaborate shindigs that require major financial and time commitments from guests, which only ratchets up the emotions even more. “It used to be that you'd just go down to the pub for a few drinks with your mom and your friends, and now people are flying abroad, and spending whole weekends,” Ware says. “It has become quite competitive, and a really big ask.”

While the premise is contemporary, *In a Dark, Dark Wood* — which is set to be adapted for film by *Gone Girl* producer Reese Witherspoon — subtly tips its hat to authors such as Agatha Christie and Dorothy L. Sayers.

Ware, who describes her childhood self as a “classic crime



geek,” says she wasn't aware of their influence while writing the book, but describes the closed-room whodunit as very much a conceit of golden-era mysteries.

“When you have people slightly awkwardly rubbing up against each other it creates narrative tension,” she says. “Especially

when you put people in a remote location with a very small cast of characters, and you can't get away.”

Sue Carter is the editor at Quill & Quire magazine.

GRAPHIC NOVEL

Jughead collection genre-bending fun

Jughead Volume One
BY: Chip Zdarsky and Erica Henderson
PUBLISHER: Archie Comics

Mike Donachie
Metro | Canada

Jughead was always the weird one, and he's super-weird in this first collection from the relaunched Archie universe.

While the other characters have always done pretty straightforward teen comedy,

Jughead was the bizarre guy who ate burgers, wore a stupid hat and turned laziness into an art-form.

Now, revitalized by Toronto's king of comical comics, Chip Zdarsky, and talented artist Erica Henderson, Jughead's probably funnier than ever.

This book grabbed lots of attention with the low-key revelation that its main character is asexual.

That's great, but it's a minor part of its appeal.

The real treasure here is

the layering of laughs and oddness, drawing on Jughead's history of time travel, beardless piracy and general scheming.

There's a plot, too, and — like always — it's really out there, compared to other Archie books.

Jughead's fighting back against his sinister new principal, with the rest of the gang and frequent dream sequences.

Just go with it. Everybody needs a bit of Jughead in their life.



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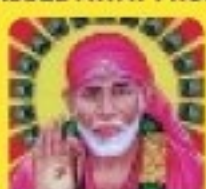
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Urban forest, lakeside living



CONTRIBUTED

Project overview

In the heart of the city's northeast Lake District, Altius Crystallina is built for life in Edmonton — attached garages included. This townhome project features lakeside views set amidst protected urban forest and though it sounds luxurious, prices aren't. With plenty of perks and purchase incentives, buyers are clamoring to come on board.

Housing amenities

All Altius townhomes feature streamlined, practical floorplans, with laminate flooring throughout, and tile in laundry/bath areas. There's a six-appliance package and private balconies to tempt would-be buyers, as well as designer consultation for interior colour selections — making the purchase one to suit every taste.

Location and transit

Just south of the Anthony Henday ring road, commuters heading downtown or to post-secondary sites can get there in 20 minutes; to West Edmonton Mall in 25, and under 10 minutes to CFB Edmonton. For public transit users, Crystallina is only a few minutes from Namoo Centre and the Eaux Claires park and ride.

In the neighbourhood

Crystallina is nestled between Poplar and Crystallina lakes, and adjacent to numerous parks and urban forest, making it perfect for hiking, cycling or walks. All level schools dot the area, as does shopping and entertainment at Manning Town Centre and the nearby Cineplex. Groceries, medical services and more continue to spring up.

LUCY HAINES/FOR METRO

+ NEED TO KNOW

What: Altius Crystallina condominiums
Builder/designer: Street-Side Developments
Location: 17832 78 St. NW
Building: Three-storey stacked townhomes, with attached single garages
Pricing: Low \$200s
Sizes: 880 square feet to 1,502 square feet.

Model: One, two and three-bedroom condos in several spacious floor plans
Status: Now pre-selling
Sales Centre: 17832 78 St. NW
Phone: 587-520-3198
Website: altius-townhomes.com

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Aaron Rodgers says he "hasn't really been affected" by his Bachelorette contestant brother Jordan saying they have an estranged relationship



Eskimos not looking to do an old friend any favours

CFL

Ex-Edmonton QB gets the nod to start for Winnipeg

Matt Nichols will get another chance Thursday to establish himself as a starting quarterback in the CFL.

And staring across the line of scrimmage at him, hoping to blow it all up, will be one of his good friends.

"We've been friends since we were 18. That's a decade now," said Edmonton linebacker JC Sherritt after practice Wednesday at Commonwealth Stadium as the Eskimos (2-2) prepared to host the Winnipeg Blue Bombers (1-4).

"But we're both professionals. I guarantee you, if he sees me in a mismatch he's going to try to embarrass me, and if I come around the edge I'm going to try and strip sack him and put him in the ground."

Sherritt and Nichols go back to their college days, when both played for Eastern Washington, and then were teammates on the Eskimos. They work out together in the

off-season.

Nichols, backup to Drew Willy, was named the starter this week in a bid by Bombers head coach Mike O'Shea to inject some energy into an offence averaging under 20 points a game. Only Montreal is worse, at 14.8 points per game.

Edmonton is familiar turf for the 29-year-old Nichols.

He began his CFL career in with the Eskimos in 2010 before being traded last September to Winnipeg for a conditional draft pick after Willy went down with a season-ending leg injury.

Nichols' time in Edmonton was star-crossed to say the least.

In the 2012 East Division semifinal Nichols tried to fight through a sack against the Toronto Argonauts, got bent backward and broke his leg and ankle.

Heading into training camp in 2013 he was rated equal with then-newcomer Mike Reilly for the starting job. But in his first pre-season game, Nichols threw an interception to Saskatchewan defensive back Carlos Thomas, then got his legs tangled up trying to tackle him. Nichols ripped up his right knee and was gone for the season.

In 2014 he was the backup,

"I'm going to try and strip sack him and put him in the ground."

Eskimo JC Sherritt



Blue Bombers quarterback Matt Nichols didn't fare so well last October when the Eskimos won 24-23 in Winnipeg. JOHN WOODS/THE CANADIAN PRESS

sharing playing time with a hobbled Reilly in the West division playoffs.

In 2015 he again got a chance to establish himself as a starter when Reilly went down with a knee injury in the first game of the season. Nichols was 5-2 as a starter

but never seemed to have the confidence of then-head coach Chris Jones, who would pull him from the game, even when Edmonton was ahead.

Reilly said he had dinner with Nichols two weeks ago, when the Eskimos were in Winnipeg and defeated the Bom-

bers 20-16.

Reilly said he wishes Nichols well, with an asterisk.

"Hopefully he gets his feet wet and has a little bit of struggles on Thursday. And after that I hope he plays great, until the next time we play him."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MLB

Dickey has hope in history

R.A. Dickey is hoping he has another late-season turnaround left in him.

Starting on short rest, the Blue Jays knuckleballer fell to 7-12 on the season with an 8-4 loss to the San Diego Padres on Wednesday in Toronto.

Dickey gave up seven runs — six earned — on four hits, including two homers, four walks and a hit batter as he dropped his third straight decision.

"I think it's only human that you question some of the methods or the selection, but at the end of the day if I've learned anything through my experience as a baseball player it's that you kind of have to have blinders on and trust the pedigree," Dickey said. "I know it's in there and it's been there a number of years."

"I still have a third of my season left so there's reason for optimism and I'm going to roll with that."

The 41-year-old Dickey struggled through the first half of last season before turning things around down the stretch and winning eight of his last nine decisions.

The 2014 season followed a similar pattern. THE CANADIAN PRESS



R.A. Dickey GETTY IMAGES

CFL

QB Burris set for Redblacks return

Henry Burris is back as the Ottawa Redblacks' starting quarterback.

Burris started the season opener for the Redblacks but suffered a finger injury in Ottawa's 45-37 overtime win over the Edmonton Eskimos. Burris, 41, left after throwing for 251 yards but was overshadowed by backup Trevor Harris, who had 292 yards passing and three TDs.

But Harris suffered ankle and knee injuries in last week's 30-29 loss to the Saskatchewan Rough-



Henry Burris GETTY IMAGES FILE

riders, which knocked Ottawa (3-1-1) from the ranks of the undefeated.

Burris has been taken off the six-game injured list and will start Sunday at TD Place against Toronto.

Logan Kilgore will start in place of the injured Ricky Ray for the Argonauts.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



NFL IN BRIEF

Rams cut Foles loose

The Los Angeles Rams released quarterback Nick Foles on Wednesday after failing to find a trade destination for the disgruntled veteran.

The Rams announced the move a day before their veterans report to training camp for their homecoming season in California.

Foles hasn't been around the Rams since they traded up to choose California QB Jared Goff with the No. 1 pick in the draft this spring.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ROGERS CUP

Raonic leans on serve to advance

Milos Raonic downed Yen-Hsun Lu of Chinese Taipei

6-3, 6-3 on Wednesday evening in Toronto in the second round of the Rogers Cup, while fellow Canadians Denis Shapovalov and Vasek Pospisil were eliminated.

Raonic, from nearby Thornhill, Ont., will face American Jared Donald-

son in the third round of the tournament. Donaldson advanced after beating Fabio Fognini 6-3, 3-6, 6-3.

Raonic relied on his booming serve, especially in the second set, and finished off the match with his eighth ace which Lu deflected high and wide.

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IN MONTREAL

Eugenie Bouchard upset the world's No. 10-ranked player Dominika Cibulkova 6-2, 6-0 in the women's draw.

+ MORE BASEBALL

TIGERS 4, RED SOX 3

Miguel Cabrera hit a tiebreaking homer in the ninth inning to help Detroit clinch a three-game sweep in Boston.

NATIONALS 4, INDIANS 1

Stephen Strasburg shut down Cleveland for seven innings and bounced back from his only loss this season to get the win for Washington on the road.

REDS 2, GIANTS 1

Jay Bruce homered in his career-high fifth straight game, connecting off Madison Bumgarner, to lead Cincinnati to a win in San Francisco.

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Jason Day tracks a tee shot during a practice round at Baltusrol Golf Club on Wednesday in Springfield, N.J. DREW HALLOWELL/GETTY IMAGES

Day hastily preps for major defence

PGA CHAMPIONSHIP

World No. 1 arrives late for major defence

Jason Day's plan to defend his PGA Championship took a turn he wasn't expecting.

It is rare for a player considered one of the favourites in a major not to see the golf course until the day before the tournament starts, but that's how the world's No. 1-ranked player will try to handle Baltusrol Golf Club, the Springfield, N.J., course that will host this year's PGA Championship.

"I haven't played a practice round. I haven't seen the course. I don't know what it looks like," Day said Wednesday before heading out for a practice round. "I was with Doug Steffen, the head pro, last night at the champions' dinner. I went through pretty much every hole with him for about 20, 30 minutes, kind of going over all the holes. I'm going to try and touch them all today, but obviously the prep's been a little on the lighter side. So I need to come in and try to get a good, solid 18 holes in today so I kind of know where I'm going."

Day's plan had always been to take Monday off. Tuesday became a day of tending to a sick family and himself. "Dash and Lucy (his children) are sick right now, and kind of Dash passed that on to me a little bit," Day said. "I'm OK. I'm fine. I'm just a little bit under the weather. Ellie (his wife) had an allergic reaction last night and had to go to the hospital. We were there until 2 o'clock or something like that. So I'm kind of running on 'E' right now. She's fine. Everything was great."

The 28-year-old Australian has eight wins in 2015 and 2016, but he hasn't had a good first round in any of the majors this year, which makes his having two top 10 finishes in them all the more impressive.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BACK-TO-BACK
Since the PGA went to stroke play in 1958, only Tiger Woods has repeated as champion, in 2006 and 2007.

IN BRIEF

Senators don't hassle the Hoff with arbitration

The Ottawa Senators and leading goal-scorer this past season Mike Hoffman avoided going to arbitration by agreeing to a four-year contract worth nearly \$21 million US on Wednesday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Aussie top Canada in Olympic hoops tuneup

Penny Taylor scored 19 points to help Australia beat Canada 80-67 on Wednesday night at the University of Delaware.

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NFL

Pats start prep for 4 games sans Brady

New England Patriots coach Bill Belichick acknowledged on Wednesday that Jimmy Garoppolo will have to start the first four games of the season at quarterback and said the top priority of training camp would be to get the former backup ready.

"We have finally some definition with Tom's situation," Belichick said of Tom Brady before declining to comment further on the "Deflategate" scandal that engulfed the NFL and one of its most successful franchises for 18 months.

"We have to prioritize the first part of our schedule and that'll be to get Jimmy ready to go."

Brady was suspended four games and the team was docked \$1 million and two draft picks for what the league said was a scheme to illegally deflate the footballs.

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Jimmy Garoppolo
GETTY IMAGES

RECIPE Shakshuka



PHOTO: MAYA VISNTEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

Just when you thought you'd made every delicious dish with eggs, please meet the Shakshuka.

Ready in

Prep time: 10 minutes
Cook time: 30 minutes
Makes: 4 servings

Ingredients

- 2 Tbsp olive oil
- 1 onion, diced quite fine
- 3 or 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 tsp paprika
- 1/2 tsp ground cumin
- chili flakes (optional)
- 1 can (28 oz) whole tomatoes
- 1 Tbsp tomato paste
- Salt and pepper
- 6 eggs
- 1/4 cup crumbled feta
- Handful of chopped basil or parsley

Directions

1. Heat the oil in a high-sided frying pan over medium heat. Add the onion and garlic and let them begin to brown. Add the paprika, cumin and a pinch of chili and stir. Let cook about 3 minutes.

2. Pour in tomatoes and tomato paste gently break them up. Allow sauce to simmer for about 20 minutes. Taste and add salt and pepper.

3. Spread the sauce evenly across the frying pan. Now crack the eggs over the sauce (I usually place five in a circle around the pan and one in the center). Cook for about 6 or 7 minutes.

4. Crumble the feta and basil or parsley over the top. Shimmy a big serving spoon under each egg to scoop them out of the pan. Serve with crusty bread and some steamed vegetables.

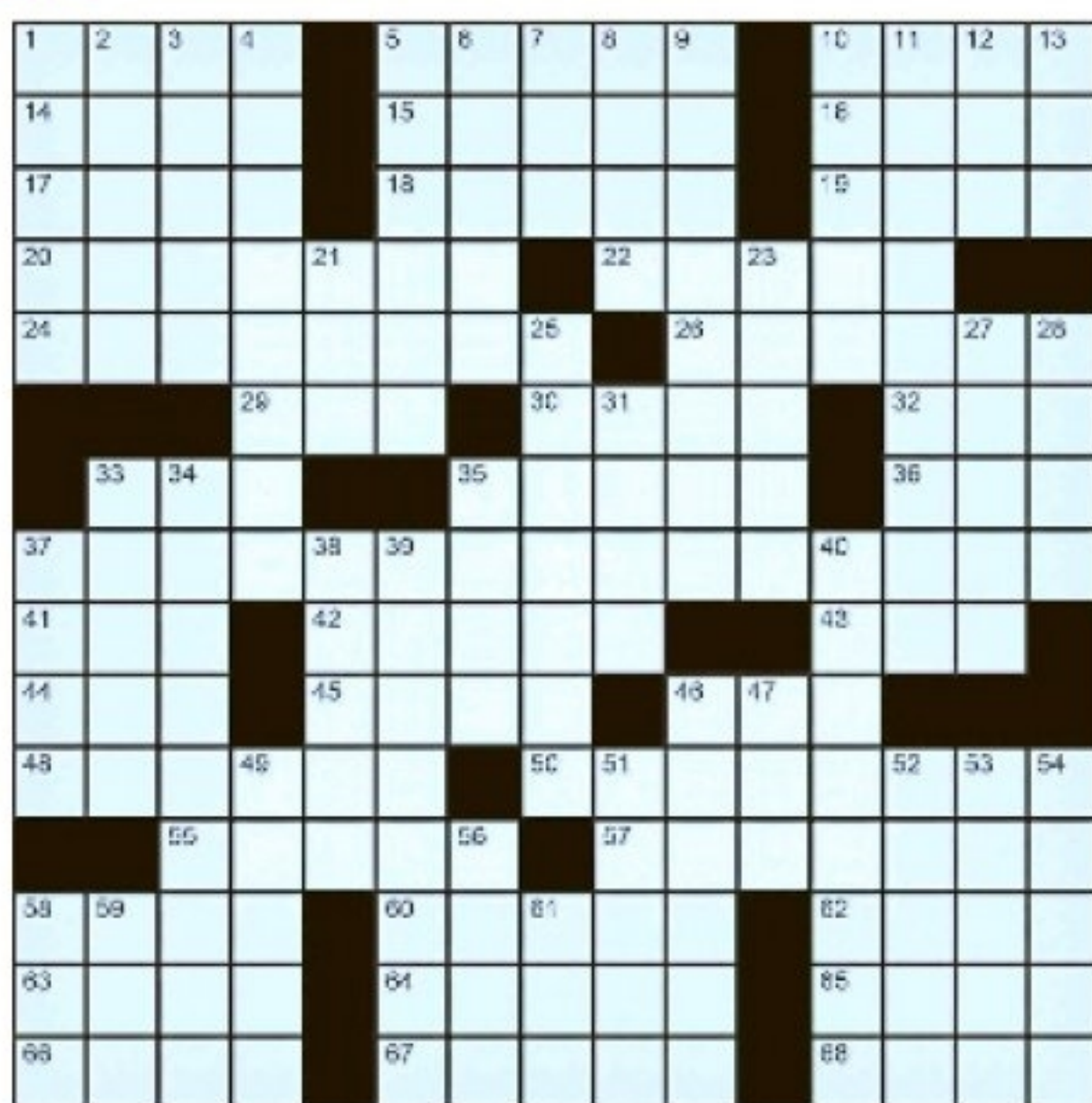
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CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN

ACROSS

1. "___ the Roof" by The Drifters
5. Cut-and-___
10. Bridge
14. Unfeigned
15. Greek Myth: The huntress Artemis unintentionally slayed him
16. Ore deposit
17. Ms. Braxton
18. Submarine instrument
19. To boot
20. Call out!
22. ___ Hilfiger of fashion
24. Montreal smoked meat serving component: 2 wds.
26. Canada's 14th Prime Minister, ___ B. Pearson
29. Increases
30. Ms. Fisher of "Wedding Crashers" (2005)
32. Charlemagne's realm [acronym]
33. Outlying
35. Where Lloyd and Harry are headed in road trip comedy "Dumb and Dumber" (1994)
36. Dutch city
37. Calgary-born architect of the Canadian Museum of History in Gatineau, Quebec
41. 'Guitar' suffix
42. Contribution to the conversation
43. These: French
44. City in Kyrgyzstan
45. Prince hit
46. Canadian actor



- Mr. Bennett
48. "Somewhere in Time" (1980) star
Christopher's
50. Post cereal, ___ Wheat
55. Old Rome monthly calendar date
57. Consequence
58. Ballerina's skirt

60. Historic immigration site, ___ Island
62. Ancient war god
63. 'Symptom' suffix
64. Accomplish, archaically
65. Rose
66. Speed of sound, ___ 1
67. Info in sports

- articles
68. Inflates

DOWN

1. Express
2. Stand-in
3. Small quantity
4. Village in western Saskatchewan about an hour southeast of

- Lloydminster
5. Floral arrangements
6. Bouquet beckoner
7. Job application's li'l 9-digit info
8. Perfectly: 2 wds. + letter
9. Paperwork filler-

- outer in order to participate
10. Loudly shuts the door
11. "___ Pam" by The Beatles
12. BCs-following dates
13. Modern
21. Alsatian artist Jean
23. 1972 Billy Paul hit: "___ Mrs. Jones"
25. Talk over
27. Richard Wagner aria: "___ Warning"
28. Whirl
31. De-gorged the gum
33. Bob of Broadway
34. Bona fide
35. Some slitherers
37. Christian of luxury fashion
38. Compare
39. Ground liquor-ice-tasting ingredients in biscotti
40. Tim Hortons beverage now available in a bottled version in grocery stores: 2 wds.
46. Pie parts
47. Tennis term
49. Give a guarantee
51. Lift at the docks
52. Andrea ___ (1956 sinking ocean liner)
53. Alter text
54. Work stations
56. Vending machine opening
58. Glaswegian's hat
59. Theatre actress
Ms. Hagen
61. Rural roaming realm

*IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
Try to avoid disputes about money and possessions today, because they will be brief but nasty. At least they will be over quickly. Hang in there.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Tread carefully today because people's emotions are volatile! It's easy to get upset with others or suddenly have an argument. (This especially applies to close friends and partners.)

Gemini May 22 - June 21
You might be doing a slow boil behind the scenes for some reason today. Do your best to just let it pass. Things will get worse if you make a big deal about them.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
(June 21 to July 22)
An argument with a friend, especially a female acquaintance, might break out today. Just remember: Patience is the antidote to anger. Remedy: Generously apply patience.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Squabbles with parents, bosses and authority figures are hard to avoid today. (This includes the police.) But who needs this? Not you. Therefore, zip thy lip.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Avoid controversial subjects like politics, religion and racial issues today, because they will quickly deteriorate into a nasty argument. Forewarned is forearmed.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
This is not an ideal day to discuss inheritances or how to divide or share something, because it will be tough to reach an agreement. Postpone this discussion for another day.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
With Mars in your sign now, you are feisty! (Scorpio is never a wimp.) Use diplomacy and patience when dealing with partners and close friends — for the sake of everyone.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
An argument with someone at work might break out today. Remember your long-term objective, which is that you want to get along with these people in the future, right? Connect the dots.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Parents will have to be patient with children today, because hissy fits and meltdowns are likely. Romantic partners must be patient with each other as well.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Avoid domestic arguments today. Get out of the house and wait till this volatile influence passes. Oy!

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Discussions with siblings, relatives and neighbours could be challenging today, because someone is looking for a fight. Do what you can to keep the peace and make your life easier.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9



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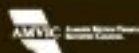
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